

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As women Members of Congress, we write today in strong support of the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Mercury and Air Toxics Standards to limit toxic air pollution from power plants. EPA is expected to finalize the standards this month.

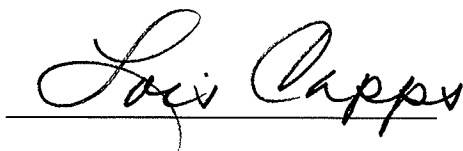
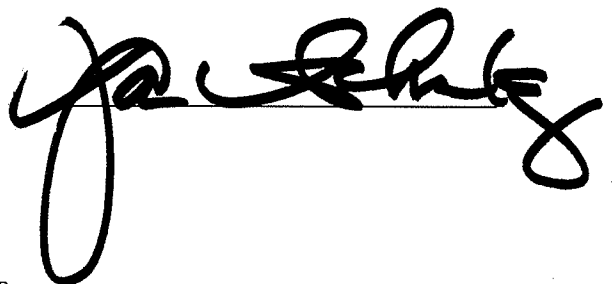
For too long, mercury and other toxic air pollution has gone unchecked. Coal-fired power plants continue to be the largest source of mercury and other toxic air pollution in the United States. The hundreds of thousands of pounds of pollution these plants emit into the air every year pose severe risks to American families. These pollutants are linked to cancer, heart disease, neurological damage, birth defects, asthma attacks, and even premature death. Mercury pollution is especially dangerous to young children, nursing mothers, and women of childbearing age, affecting a developing child's ability to walk, talk, read, write, and learn.

EPA's proposed Mercury and Air Toxics Standards are one of the most significant improvements in public health safeguards since the passage of the Clean Air Act Amendments in 1990. These standards will prevent 91 percent of the mercury in coal burned in power plants from being emitted to the air. By 2016, these standards will save as many as 17,000 American lives every year and prevent up to 120,000 cases of aggravated asthma every year. In addition, these standards will help to avoid more than 12,000 emergency room and hospital visits and prevent 850,000 lost work days each year, once implemented. Americans across the country support cleaning up these plants and improving the health and lives of our children.

We can't wait, Mr. President. These standards are urgently needed. It is time to require power plants to clean up the pollution that is inflicting such devastating damage to our health.

We urge you to move forward and support strong Mercury and Air Toxics standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lois Capps", written over a horizontal line.A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jay Byrnes", written over a horizontal line.

Steven Swore

Lynn Woolsey

Barbara Lee

Melanie White

Jamie Hahn

Donna F. Edwards

Jodi Spier

Betty McCallum

Judy Allen

Theresa J. Schwartz

Joella Sanchez

Aria DeLette

Luella Royal-Allard

Carole M. Maloney

Nita Maloney

Anna J. San

Karen Bass

Doris O. Matsui

ANG G. Esho

Grace J. Napolitano

Joe Lopez

Tammy Baldwin

Rosa DeLanno

Nicole H. Volzky

Mazie L. Hiano

June Beland

Chell

Louise M. Slaughter

Sheila Jackson Lee

Viki Wong

Shelley Berkeley

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Frederica S. Wilson

John M. Chafee

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Annun A. Davis

Kathy Casto

Yvette D. Clarke

Signatories

Lois Capps	Jan Schakowsky
Gwen Moore	Lucille Roybal-Allard
Lynn Woolsey	Carolyn Maloney
Barbara Lee	Nita Lowey
Maxine Waters	Linda Sanchez
Janice Hahn	Karen Bass
Donna Edwards	Doris Matsui
Jackie Speier	Anna Eshoo
Betty McCollum	Grace Napolitano
Judy Chu	Zoe Lofgren
Allyson Schwartz	Tammy Baldwin
Loretta Sanchez	Rosa DeLauro
Dianna DeGette	Nydia Velazquez
Mazie Hirono	Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Laura Richardson	Frederica Wilson
Chellie Pingree	Donna Christensen
Louise Slaughter	Eleanor Holmes Norton
Shiela Jackson Lee	Susan Davis
Niki Tsongas	Kathy Castor
Shelley Berkley	Yvette Clarke
Eddie Bernice Johnson	